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# Northern Region News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 10

October 1996

## College Interns Gain Experience On Forests, In RO

by Gale Everett,  
RO Human Resources.

The utilization of students to perform resource and administrative work offers tremendous opportunities for managers and students alike. In 1994, the Office of Personnel Management consolidated several student hiring authorities and developed a Student Educational Employment Program which removed many restrictions and provided greater flexibility. These and other changes have made student employment much more attractive to Forest Service managers and supervisors.

Nearly 430 students were working in R-1 through Student Educational Employment Programs by the end of July of 1996. These students came to R-1 from colleges and universities in Alabama, Arizona, California, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Arkansas, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

This past summer, five R-1 National Forests, RO Fire Management, RO Engineering and the Missoula Technology & Development Center participated in

National, Regional and National Forest student recruitment initiatives to meet a variety of Forest Service needs and goals. These recruitment initiatives provide excellent opportunities for units to recruit from a greater variety of colleges, reach a more diverse student population and provide other benefits as well.

Twenty-one exceptional students, recruited from these initiatives, participated in a Northern Region program that introduced them to the Forest Service organization, and provided opportunities to learn about the area, local history, and the culture of the Northern Region. This ambitious program included presentations on a variety of topics, field trips, tours of various Forest Service offices and operations and visits to local points of interest. Students indicated that this session was very informative and they



**R-1 COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY SUMMER INTERNS.**

Photo by Gale Everett.



**PONE YANG (left) and NOU YANG** worked on a project this summer at the Missoula Aerial Fire Depot.

gained a lot of insight about the Forest Service and all that it encompasses.

— **INTERNS** continued on page 2

## INTERNS

Continued from page 1.

| Name             | Unit                     | School                | Academic Major      |
|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Brian Ortiz      | Beaverhead-Deerlodge     | N.M.State U.          | wildlife biology    |
| Robbie Trujillo  | Beaverhead-Deerlodge     | N.M.State U.          | wildlife biology    |
| Jon Slater       | Clearwater NF            | Alabama A & M U.      | forestry            |
| Michael Connor   | Clearwater NF            | Alabama A & M U.      | forestry            |
| Chad Baconrind   | Helena NF                | U. of Kansas          | fisheries biology   |
| Dennis Longknife | Helena NF                | U. of Montana         | forestry            |
| David Romero     | Panhandle NFs            | N.M.State U.          | wildlife biology    |
| Betty Murdock    | Panhandle NFs            | Bacone College (OK)   | resource management |
| Russell Newman   | Panhandle NFs            | Bacone College (OK)   | resource management |
| LaShawn Pullum   | Panhandle NFs            | Pralrie View A & M U. | accounting          |
| Brian Bex        | Panhandle NFs            | U. of Idaho           | mech. engineering   |
| Athan Kasilomets | Panhandle NFs            | U. of Idaho           | business management |
| Corryn Oakland   | Panhandle NFs            | U. of Idaho           | undeclared          |
| Nikole McGuire   | Panhandle NF's           | U. of Idaho           | communications      |
| Martha Munoz     | Panhandle NF's           | U. of Idaho           | economics           |
| Keri Methe       | Lewis & Clark NF         | New Mexico State U.   | range science       |
| Tiffany Fields   | Lewis & Clark NF         | Prairie View A & M U. | information systems |
| Pone Yang        | Aerial Flre Depot        | U. of Montana         | undeclared          |
| Nou Yang         | Aeriai Fire Depot        | U. of Montana         | undeclared          |
| Elisha Stanard   | RO Engineering           | U. of Idaho           | architecture        |
| Venus Chow       | Msla Tech. & Dev. Center | U. of Montana         | English             |

The Student Educational Employment Program consists of two components:

(1) the Student Temporary Employment Program, and

(2) the Student Career Experience Program

Both programs benefit students and the Forest Service. For students, it provides opportunities to:

- earn income to support their education;
- obtain knowledge about the Forest Service organization and its activities;
- acquire work experience (often related to their academic major);
- opportunities to apply classroom knowledge;
- develop workplace contact and mentors;
- gain new insights as to how the students might structure academic course work;
- demonstrate personal skills and potential;
- in some cases, receive college credit;
- offer opportunity to move into career positions.

**STUDENT INTERN ELISHA STANARD,**  
*University of Idaho architecture student, worked with Bruce Crockett, architect, RO Engineering.*



**COMMUNICATIONS MAJOR TIFFANY FIELDS,** *Prairie View (Texas) A. & M. University, provided IBM computer instruction for some Lewis & Clark employees in the Supervisor's Office in Great Falls.*



**CATHERINE DESMOND** and archaeologist Ben Munger,  
Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, Dillon, MT. Photo by Jack de Golia.

# Archaeology Student Comes From Ireland To Work on Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF

by Jack de Golia, Public Affairs Officer,  
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

**J**ust seeing other people's ways of living has given her important insights into her own life. A native of Mayfield (population 3,000) in County Cork, Ireland, Catherine is about to complete her undergraduate work in archaeology at the University College of Cork.

In her quest to see what lies beyond the shores of the Emerald Isle, she answered an advertisement for international students from a Los Angeles archaeologist. Catherine had spent the summer of 1995 working with the State Archaeologist in Connecticut, and so applied to work again in the northeastern United States.

Somewhere along the way, her application got diverted to Montana and the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. And, after 10 weeks of field work under the Big Sky, she reluctantly headed back home, glad her application went astray.

Catherine expressed gratitude to everyone who helped with her trip, from her neighbors in Mayfield who raised the money she needed for air fare to Montana, to Ben and Laurie Munger and Mike and Michelle Ryan, who took her in when she became ill for two weeks in the midst of the summer. (Ben and Mike are Beaverhead-Deerlodge archaeologists, Laurie and Michelle are their wives.)

During that illness, she almost gave up and went home, but Michelle Ryan came over, took Catherine out of her Western Montana College dorm room, brought her to the Ryan home and nursed her back to health.

When asked for her impressions of archaeology in Ireland compared to the United States, Catherine immediately noted that Irish archaeologists deal only with artifacts from before 1500. Her college

raised controversy recently by daring to offer a class in the archaeology of the 1500-1900 period.

Yet, in the U.S., as she worked with Ben and Mike, Catherine learned that American archaeology starts with 1950 and goes back from there! Catherine noted that Ireland is no doubt losing some of its history by overlooking the recent past.

She noted some differences, too, in the Irish and American work ethics. In Ireland, no one goes to work before 9; lunch is at 1, and dinner is at 5. Eating after 6 o'clock is unheard of! Catherine noticed Americans tend to work long hours and try to meet deadlines much more ardently than the Irish. The Irish get the work done, she says, but the pace is slower and easier.

Her work spanned the gamut of Forest

## Catherine Desmond thinks everyone ought to travel

Service cultural resources, from doing clearances for timber sales to monitoring sites in ongoing project areas to helping restore the historic cabins at Wall Creek, south of Ennis.

Catherine was in awe of Montana's scenic beauty, and said her wildlife high point came one day when she and Ben found a pair of mating rattlesnakes in the middle of a road. The snakes were so preoccupied, they ignored Ben and

Catherine altogether. There are no snakes in Ireland, so Catherine is sure she has a sure-fire tale to tell the folks back home--and photos to show!

Cork lies at 50 feet above sea level. Dillon, Montana, is a mile above the sea. Catherine noted that after 10 weeks she finally had stopped breathing hard, but still was having nose bleeds, thanks to the dry air east of the Continental Divide.

She was full of praise for the hard-working archaeologists she worked with, impressed at their energy, but mindful that they'd never catch up with the rich archaeological resources in Southwest Montana. Just one day at a lunch stop, she and Ben found two sites, one including basalt chips where Indians made arrowheads, perhaps a thousand or more years ago.

Having gained a new perspective on archaeology, Catherine returns home to Ireland still committed to the science. "It's wonderful, because with archaeology, you never know all the answers. Someone ten years from now will have a new technique or new interpretation of your work."

In September, Catherine joined a dig in Mayo, Ireland, to excavate a "ring fort," a site, perhaps 3,000 years old, where Celtic families lived generation after generation. Then in October, it was back for her final year at college, and the task of applying for other international archaeological work opportunities.

She's the one of the 63 archaeology students at her school to go abroad. And, she said, it's really just a matter of applying. "If you work at it, it will happen," she said.

# Idaho Sixth-Graders At Wilderness Gateway Learn "Leave-No-Trace"

by Sarah Walker, Wilderness Ranger,  
Lochsa RD, Kooskia, Idaho, Clearwater NF

**D**emonstrating good no-trace camping habits is a good way to teach.

Learning through demonstration and doing is what sixth-grade students from Kamiah, Kooskia and Powell experienced in 1996 at Wilderness Gateway Campground east of Kooskia.

Using a program called the "Skills Trail," Powell RD resource assistant Cheri Jones and wilderness ranger Sarah Walker set up learning stations along the trail to offer hands-on opportunities for students to understand good camping habits and techniques.

There's the "Brutus the Burdened Backpacker" station. Brutus has brought so much unnecessary stuff in his pack, he's collapsed! What could he have done? Students suggest repackaging containerized foods into lightweight bags; taking powdered milk instead of fresh; remembering a first aid kit, map and compass; telling someone his itinerary before going camping.

Another station shows ways to tie up a horse without damaging tree roots. The students tie up their "stock" (other students in halters) to a highline, or a picket line, or use hobbles, or turn some loose. Use feed bags to feed stock. Water is bucketed to the horses or the no-trace campers search for a hard, rocky creek bank to avoid leaving muddy, trampled stream banks.

Students learn there are five ways to cook on the trail. The traditional campfire. Then there are other ways to cook and end up with a more successful cleanup afterwards: a pit fire, a mound fire, a fire pan, or a stove. Students take a few minutes to check out examples of each, read up on their pros and cons, then report to the group so all can learn how to use these techniques safely.



**CHERI JONES, (left) & SARAH WALKER (below), Clearwater NF, taught sixth-graders from Kamiah, Kooskia and Powell how long it takes various kinds of litter, left by thoughtless campers, to decompose.**

Photos by Chuck Raddon



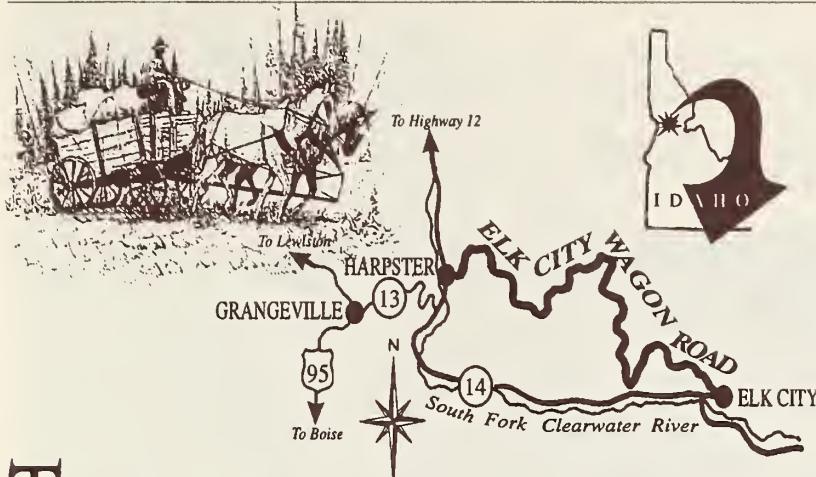
Other stations deal with proper disposal of human waste, how to wash dishes without polluting the home of fish and frogs, and ways that leave no trace fits into safe camping in bear country.

Larger concepts and themes are woven in with activities and hands-on learning. Using felt figures on an old-fashioned flannel board, the students get a history lesson and see how land-use patterns relate to human needs. Playing the "thicket game" (like hide-and-seek), the students learn that using soft colors, being quiet, and remaining still are good techniques for observing wildlife as well as camping in

the backcountry when we don't want to interfere with other visitors' search for solitude.

"Leave No Trace" is an educational approach used by the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other agencies in teaching responsible sharing of our wildlands. Classes are offered in local communities.

Contacts are made with backcountry visitors, and no-trace is taught to agency personnel. Every time we take our family and friends out camping, fishing, hunting, hiking or picnicking we have the opportunity to set a good no-trace example.



**T**raveling the Elk City Wagon Road (ECWR) can be an exciting, imaginative adventure. You'll travel a road miners and freighters took to the gold fields of Elk City. The ECWR begins at Harpster, a small town on the South Fork of the Clearwater River. From Harpster, it is a scenic, 53-mile trip to Elk City.

The route is marked at each mile and road junction with brown and white ECWR posts. Five interpretive signs help tell the story of 100 years of history. The ECWR brochure contains maps locating 29 points of interest with mile points and historical descriptions. Here are samples of the information detailed in the brochure.

**HARPSTER:** Established in 1893, Harpster was the first full-service stop for wagons on the ECWR. During its boom years, the town grew famous for a dill pickle business that supplied pickles to mining camps.

**SWITCHBACK:** From 1894 to 1934 Switchback Station provided beds and meals for freighters.

**MOUNTAIN HOUSE:** For 37 years, 1895 to 1932, this station provided lodging for freighters, especially when deep snows blocked the wagon road.

**NEWSOME:** From 1892 to 1924, Newsome was known to wagon road travelers for a fine hotel with excellent cuisine.

by Laura Smith, Visual Information Specialist, Nez Perce National Forest, Grangeville, Idaho.

sine. Other buildings included a post office, barns, a bar and a morgue.

**ELK CITY:** Established in 1861 by gold seekers, this was the town the road was built for. Here wagons unloaded their freight for the mines, then departed for the next load. Several historic buildings remain.

The Elk City Wagon Road brochure and interpretive signing along the road was funded by the Idaho Centennial Commission, the Idaho Centennial Committee and the Nez Perce National Forest. Individual members of the Friends of the ECWR donated time, materials and money to the project.

## Watchable Wildlife Tour on Flathead NF

by Rod Hickle, Hungry Horse RD, Flathead NF.

**G**lacier View RD, Flathead NF, now offers an 18-mile Watchable Wildlife Auto Tour through the scenic country around the North Fork of the Flathead River.

Thirteen numbered stops along the route are keyed to a handy tour folder available at the Hungry Horse (Montana) Ranger District, P.O. Box 190340, telephone (406/387-5243) and the Chamber of Commerce office, 233 13th Street East, Columbia Falls, MT 59911, (406) 892-3437. The folder contains details about significant natural features in the area of each signed stop.

The tour starts about 12 miles north of Columbia Falls, on McGinnis Creek Road (No. 803). Then the auto tour road climbs over Lookout Saddle and down into the Big Creek drainage for the return to the North Fork road. Along the route you will see where logging and fires have created excellent habitat for bears, elk, moose and deer.

Along the way are numerous riparian zones that serve as travel corridors for many wildlife species, including wolves and mountain lions. Viewing along the drive also includes old growth forest areas, home for many wild-



**SCENE AUTO STOP NO. 7 ALONG NORTH FORK OF THE FLATHEAD RIVER:**  
Huckleberry Mountain, Deep Creek. Glacier National Park in the background.

Photo by Rod Hickle, Hungry Horse RD, Flathead NF.

life species, and pullout areas that provide spectacular views into Glacier National Park.

# OPEN SEASONS For Employees

**A**s we mark the changing of the seasons and holidays, Forest Service employees and retirees should be alert to the health insurance and thrift savings plans open seasons and the opportunities they provide.

**Health Benefits (FEHBA):** The 1996 FEHBA open season is Monday, Nov. 11, through Monday, December 9. Be alert to the open season dates. There is only one open season per year. During an open season, eligible employees who are not enrolled can register to enroll, or an employee may change from one health insurance plan or insurance option to another. Contact your personnel office for a registration form (SF-2809) to record the changes you want to make. Each personnel office has booklets on each health insurance plan available in your area.

**Thrift Savings Plan (TSP):** The Thrift Savings Plan provides two open seasons each year, May 15 to July 31 and November 15 to January 31. Effective dates are determined when you submit your TSP



election form (TSP-1) to your personnel office.

Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) employees are eligible for automatic 1% agency contributions and agency matching contributions.

Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) employees

can contribute up to 5% of their basic pay. CSRS employees are not eligible to receive any matching contributions from the agency. During an open season, eligible employees can (a) choose to increase/decrease their contributions; (b) elect to enroll if they haven't previously; (c) cancel their contributions; (d) can re-designate which TSP program they invest in.

**Group Life Insurance:** Open seasons are rare for Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI). Employees approaching retirement should be alert to the fact they must have at least five years of FEGLI coverage immediately prior to the date of retirement. Contact your personnel office if you have FEGLI questions.

## Regional Training Academy Set For March 17-21 at UM

Planning has begun for the 1997 R-1 Regional Training Academy (RTA). RTA 97 will be March 17-21 on the University of Montana Campus in Missoula.

Last year more than 900 Northern Region employees attended various classes that were sponsored by Staff units in the R0.

Staff units are currently evaluating training needs for RTA 97. In addition, plans are being made for a vendors display of services and products. If you have input for training needs, potential vendors, or any comments that should be considered for RTA 97, please contact any of the following core team members:

Donna Sheehy, R0 Engineering, (406) 329-3312.

Steve Gradhandt, R0 Administration, (406) 329-3001.

Peggy St.Peter, R0 Human Resources, (406) 329-3194.

*No Muskrat Love Here...*

## Beating The Muskrats:



**T**he recreation staff at the Philmont Ranger District (Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF) shows off its new "musk-

*rat-proof*" floating dock, here being installed at the Red Bridge launch area of Georgetown Lake. The dock is made of metal tubing, with wooden bumpers. The floats are styrofoam encapsulated galvanized



Photos by Philmont RD.

sheeting. The dock is removed in the fall, using a specially built trailer. The district plans other docks that local muskrats will find unsuitable as a source for nesting material.



# Employees "Pitch In" As Willing Volunteers On Palouse Ranger District



**BLAKE BALLARD** packs a fire log to one of the campsites. It was cut from one of the trees blown down at Laird Park.



**"PITCH-IN" VOLUNTEERS (L TO R) KENT WELLNER, CARM LOCKWOOD AND JACK COYNER** deliver gravel to a campsite at Laird Park.

Photos by Blake Ballard

**T**here is less funding for our campgrounds and a "can do" attitude is apparently coming over dedicated Forest Service employees on the Palouse RD.

This commitment to the public was demonstrated when ten eager workers responded to an all-District call for volunteers for a Sunday work day. Under the direction of

by Cindy Chamay, Information Receptionist,  
Palouse RD, Clearwater National Forest

Forester Kent Wellner, the crew reported to Laird Park Campground, 15 miles east of Potlatch. The campground had sustained considerable flood damage in the spring. As the seasonal opening of the campground drew near, there was just not enough time or recreation employees to get all the work done.

Work day volunteers cut and slash piled blowdowns. Gravel was hauled and spread. Grass was mowed. Litter was picked up and tables and pads were swept clean.

Volunteers from the district represented: timber, recreation, business management and included the district ranger.

Everyone went home with sore muscles and a good feeling of accomplishment after the "pitch-in" work day.

**F**or ten years the Pierce Ranger District, Clearwater NF, has sponsored the annual "Take Pride in the Clearwater" (TPIC) volunteer project on the Lolo Trail.

On the weekend of July 19-21, seventy-one volunteers rolled up their sleeves to help the Forest Service maintain the historic Lolo Trail System, and renovate the historic Liz Butte Cabin. Volunteers came from all parts of the country, but most of the volunteers were faithful returnees who reside locally, and truly take pride in the Clearwater.

They worked hard all day Saturday clearing 11.5 miles of the Lolo Trail, which includes the Lewis and Clark Trail and the Nee Me Poo Trail.

In addition to clearing the trail, the volunteers installed two culverts in areas where water and seepage were causing problems on the trail tread; installed signs at trail heads; and cleaned campsites along the Lolo Motorway. They also opened and cleared Road 500 of all debris and blowdown from Rocky Ridge to Liz Butte.

The "Camp Creek Bunch," a group of volunteers from local communities named after their favorite camping place, came to the site early and worked the week before TPIC weekend, as well as through the weekend,

## "Take Pride in Clearwater" On Pierce Ranger District

renovating the historic Liz Butte Cabin. They finished the floor, stained the log structure and re-roofed half of the roof. It looks beautiful!

Volunteers also served as "camp crew," preparing a huge steak dinner for everyone Saturday evening, and breakfast Sunday morning. Of course, the delicious food is the highlight of everyone's evening as well as the fireside sharing and singing, when true relaxation time comes.

The Pierce Ranger District staff wants to thank all that came to the event and helped "get things done" as well as share their friendship. They made the 10th anniversary of "Take Pride in the Clearwater" a wonderful success.

A special mention must be made of those volunteers who have attended TPIC every year for ten years: Fred and Cheeta Brown; Gordon and Shirlee Hawkins; Dean, Shirley, Kevin and Craig Roach; and Warren Ratcliff.

by Linda Fee, Resource Assistant,  
Pierce (Idaho) RD, Clearwater NF.



**PIERCE DISTRICT RANGER DOUG GOBER** talked with volunteers around a campfire last summer about the work to be done the next day at the 10th annual "Take Pride In the Clearwater" project. The group camped at Rocky Ridge. Seventy-one volunteers helped perform maintenance on the Lolo Trail System, clean up along the Lolo Motorway and renovate Liz Butte Cabin. Photo by Chuck Raddon.



# IT'S "FOR REAL"!



**KATHY SMITH**, sign coordinator for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, holds the first sign with the new consolidated forest name. The Racetrack Campground, near Deer Lodge, Montana, suffered vandalism in 1995, and was put back together thanks to efforts of many employees.

Photo by Jack de Golia, Public Affairs Officer, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF.



**REMINDER EMPLOYEES & RETIREES:** The 1996 Combined Federal Campaign for Missoula and Ravalli counties started Sept. 30 and is going strong. It continues until Nov. 1. Remember to give generously to the charitable agencies that "Change Lives And Share The Spirit." If you have questions about the Combined Federal Campaign, contact Jane Haker, 1996 Forest Service Keyworker, at the Missoula Aerial Fire Depot (R01D via DG or telephone 406/329-4905).

**"BRING BACK THE NATIVES"** Of the 26 fisheries projects designed to restore native fish species on public lands, four of the challenge grant awards by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation are on R-1 National Forests. The special project is in cooperation with the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Trout Unlimited. The program provides opportunities to match local funds and in-kind services with Federal funds to bring back native fishes. The R-1 projects are in the Lake Pend Oreille watershed on the Panhandle NFs; the Arctic grayling Big Hole habitat, Wisdom RD; establishing stable, viable Arctic grayling populations in the Big Hole, Jefferson, Beaverhead, Madison, Gallatin, Sun and Smith drainages, Wisdom RD; and restoring westslope cutthroat trout of Muskrat Creek. The last three projects are on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF.

## SHORT NOTES

### COURT UPHOLDS BAITING

**POLICY:** U.S. District Court, Washington, D.C., has upheld the Forest Service's wildlife baiting policy which had been challenged by animal-rights groups. The suit, brought by the Fund for Animals and others, sought to require the Forest Service to ban hunters from using bait to attract game animals, such as black bears. Baiting to attract black bears has been banned in most states, but is currently allowed in 10 states. The Court said the plaintiffs should rightfully pursue their argument with individual States rather than with the Forest Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

### NEW EDITIONS OF VISITOR

**MAPS** available in October: "Deerlodge Forest Visitors Map", covering the Deerlodge NF, and the "Southwest Montana Interagency Visitor Map", covering Federal and State lands in Beaverhead and Madison counties, are available (\$4 each) in October, before the opening of the general rifle hunting season.

**"FALL COLOR HOT LINE"** A toll-free telephone number (800/354-4595), indicating the anticipated peaks of fall foliage nationwide began operation by the Forest Service on Thursday, Sept. 5. The fall foliage information is updated each week. A more detailed foliage report is provided on the internet. The internet address is <http://fs.fed.us/recreation/fall.htm>.

**TRANSMISSION LINE** (100-kilovolt) from Anaconda to Philipsburg, through Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF proposed by Montana Power Co. The new line would use 20,000 feet (3.8 miles) of an existing 50-kilovolt-line right of way in the Forest. That would widen the current right of way by 10 to 20 feet. Another 8,800 feet of line would require a new right of way, clearing a 60-foot right of way for 6,300 feet.

**SALVAGE SALE DECISION** memo has been signed by District Ranger Jerry Bird, Selway RD, Nez Perce NF. An estimated one million board feet of dead, dying and high risk timber would be harvested from the Cougar Ridge area, along Forest System roads 9730, 9731, 9732 and their spurs. The harvest area is 13 air miles southeast of Kooskia, Idaho. The Decision Memo Bird signed was issued under the provisions of the Rescissions Act (Public Law 104-19).

**NEW R-1 MAPS:** "Welcome Creek Wilderness", topographic map, Lolo National Forest, and "Grand River & Cedar River National Grasslands", Custer National Forest. The maps are sold to the public for \$4 each.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAVEL SYSTEM DELAYED** The U.S. Department of Agriculture has delayed the implementation of the Unified Travel System (UTS) from October 1996 to April 1997 to ensure a successful transition to the new system. Implementation of UTS will require the Forest Service to convert to an electronic environment for processing travel vouchers. The Department has encouraged the Forest Service to move as many transactions as possible before April 1997.



**MONTANA GOVERNOR MARK RACICOT** spoke at the dedication ceremony near the Wolf Creek bridge. Photo by Mike Oliver

Montana Governor Mark Racicot dedicated a Montana Highway Historical Marker August 5 at the Wolf Creek fishing access north of Helena to the 13 Forest Service firefighters who died in the Mann Gulch wildfire, August 5, 1949, in the Helena National Forest.

Governor Racicot dedicated the Mann Gulch Fire historical marker to "...the thirteen men who died in the Mann Gulch fire" as well as all women and men who have served as wildland firefighters, especially those who have died in the line of duty.

The historical marker is near the Wolf Creek bridge, 17 miles north of Helena, just off Interstate 15 at Wolf Creek, near the turn-off to Holter Lake Reservoir on the Missouri River. It tells the story of the tragic fire that claimed 12 smokejumpers and a forest guard in the steep, isolated gulch about three miles north of Upper Holter Lake, in the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness. Mann Gulch is on the Helena RD, Helena NF.

Brian Cockhill, Director of the Montana Historical Society, spoke of the history of Mann Gulch and how wildland fires have

## Memorial Honors 13 Firefighters Who Died in 1949

by Mike Oliver,  
Government Affairs  
Coordinator,  
Helena National Forest,  
Helena, Montana

characterized much of Montana's history. The dedication of the marker was on the 47th anniversary of the Mann Gulch fire.

Forest Service representatives at the dedication included Tom Harbour, Northern Region Deputy Director of Air, Fire and Aviation; Laird Robinson, Northern Region Public and Governmental Relations; District Ranger Dennis Hart, Helena RD; Bill Henness, Fire Management Officer, Helena RD District; Kurt Cuneo, Helena RD Resource Assistant; Dave Turner, Helena Ranger District Resource Forester; and Mike Oliver, Government Affairs Coordinator, Helena NF.

Retired Smokejumper Superintendent Earl Cooley also attended the dedication. Cooley, one of the original Forest Service smokejumpers, was the spotter on the plane from which the smokejumpers jumped on the Mann Gulch fire.

## *Kootenai National Forest*

### Youth Conservation Corps Marks 25th Anniversary

by Patty Johnson, Cartographic Technician,  
Kootenai National Forest, Libby, Montana



**TWO OF THE THREE YCC CREWS** who worked on the Kootenai NF this summer. Eric Heyn, Rexford RD, and Floyd Bain, West Zone Engineering Office at Three Rivers District, supervised the high school students on these crews. Another crew worked for the Fortine RD. Photo by Gary Smith.

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Program.

In fiscal year 1996 alone, YCC participants completed conservation projects valued at \$2.2 million servicewide. Throughout the Kootenai NF, the 18 members of "our" crews

completed a variety of jobs, involving work valued at about \$85,000.

On August 12, the Kootenai NF crews, their leaders and coordinators were awarded T-shirts and 25-year YCC commemorative patches in recognition of their overall work accomplishments.

Trail reconstruction was a big job, after the spring flooding. The Ross Creek Cedars trail was rebuilt. Many other trails were reconstructed and repaired. Recreation sites were improved with painting, rebuilding of picnic tables, cleaning of fire pits and maintenance work at rental cabins.

Kootenai YCC crews assisted the Heritage Program with site surveys. Crews planted 1,450 trees to reclaim a gravel pit at Long Meadows. Stream enhancements were done with forest hydrologists. Another crew dismantled and hauled down snow observation stations set up for a study by the University of Idaho. One group set up an enclosure, fencing off an acre of trees to deer-proof it.

The YCC program provides opportunities for students to work in fisheries, hydrology, heritage, wildlife, recreation and scenic resources. This exposure in environmental education helps the students better understand how the different Forest Service facets fit together.

## Ed Monnig New Ranger Fortine RD



**FORTINE (MT) DISTRICT RANGER  
ED MONNIG**, Kootenai NF. Photo by Steve Newman, TOBACCO VALLEY NEWS, Eureka, MT.

**Edward C. Monnig**, ecologist, RO Forest and Rangeland Management, was named Fortine (MT) District Ranger, Kootenai NF, in August.

Monnig replaces Jane Kollmeyer who transferred to the Talley Lake RD, Whitefish, MT, Flathead NF. Kollmeyer had been Fortine District Ranger for four years.

A native of Ohio, Monnig hold degrees in chemistry and environmental sciences from the University of Texas.

For the past 12 years Monnig has worked in the Northern Region headquarters as appeals and litigation coordinator, a member of the regional salvage timber sale team, ecologist and pesticide coordinator.

In private industry he held positions as project manger in the Environmental Engineering Division of TRW, Inc. and as a research team leader for Research Triangle Institute in North Carolina.

His wife, Jackie, is a psychologist and works with the Tribal Mental Health Department of the Salish-Kootenai Tribe. Ed and Jackie are the parents of two sons, David, 17, and Nathan, 14.

## Don Smith Retires, St. Joe RD, Panhandle NFs

**Don Smith**, supervisory forester, Operations & Maintenance Team, St. Joe RD, Panhandle NFs, St. Maries, Idaho, retired in August, after 30 years with the Forest Service. After working in the Rocky Mountain Region (R-2) for 14 years, Smith came to R-1 in 1981.

Born in St. Louis, he served with the U.S. Marines (1960-64) and graduated from Utah State University (1968) with a degree in wildlife management. After working as a temporary employee on the Big Horn National Forest, 1967-1969, he accepted a full-time appointment as a forester trainee on the Elk Mountain RD, New Castle, WY, Black Hills NF.



**DON SMITH**

Subsequent assignments included Cebolla RD, Gunnison NF, and Bearlodge RD, Black Hills NF. He came to St. Maries in 1981. Smith served as resource assistant until the zone reorganization in 1994, when he was named operations team leader. Twice he served as acting district ranger at St. Maries for extended periods.

Mr. & Mrs. (Char) are making their retirement home in Coeur d'Alene.



**HARRIS MACEO**

**Harris Maceo**, operating accountant, Financial Resources Staff, RO Administration, has accepted a promotion to supervisory budget analyst on the Chugach National Forest in Alaska (R-10).

Maceo reported to his new assignment in Anchorage in October.

## Harris Maceo Promoted To Chugach NF, Alaska

A graduate of West High School (Anchorage), he holds a degree in business administration, with an emphasis in accounting, from Washington State University (1989).

He started his Forest Service career on the Wallowa-Whitman NF, Baker City, Oregon, as an accounting trainee. Maceo received a career conditional appointment in 1990 as an accountant on the Wallowa-Whitman NF.

Since 1991 he has been an operating accountant in the Northern Regional headquarters in Missoula.



**JOHN CASE, FORESTER ON THE CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST**, participated in the 35th annual Clearwater County Sixth Grade Forestry Tour in July, along with several other Clearwater employees. He talked with the youngsters about the work of a forester. The tour is organized by a committee working through the county extension office and comprised of members representing public and private forestry interests. The objective of the tour is to help young people appreciate and understand forest resources. Photo by Linnea Keating.



**FOREST SERVICE PARTICIPANTS AT THE WESTERN REGIONAL COOPERATIVE SOIL SURVEY CONFERENCE IN BOZEMAN:** (front row, L to R) Duane Lammers; R-6, John Lane R-2; John Nesser, R-1; Bob Meurisse, R-6. (back row, L to R) Henry Shovic (R-1); Gary Ford (R-1); Walt Russell (WO); Jerry Freeouf, (R-2); Tim Sullivan (R-2).

## Soil & Water Conservation Society Western Soil Conference, Bozeman

Soil scientists from the Western United States and the Washington, D.C., area participated in the Western Regional Cooperative Soil Survey Conference, June 2-7, in Bozeman, MT.

Sponsored by the Soil & Water Conservation Society, the conference included soil scientists from the Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation

Service, National Park Service and several universities.

Conference topics included agency reports, soil health and quality, long-term productivity and riparian soils.

Dorothy Bradley, Water Resource Center, Montana State University, Bozeman, gave the conference keynote address. Highlight of the conference was a field trip to Yellowstone National Park, hosted by Henry Shovic, Gallatin NF.

## Kristine Lee Named R-1 A&L Coordinator

**Kristine Lee**, Walla Walla, Washington, co-leader of the aquatic and riparian science team on the Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project, has been named R-1 Appeals and Litigation Coordinator.

She replaces Stephen J. Solem who is now assistant director of RO Ecosystem Assessment & Planning.

A native of western Washington, Lee holds a degree in biology from Washington State University, a graduate degree in fisheries science from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks and has started a PhD program in natural resource policy at Utah State University.

She has worked as a temporary biologist for State and Federal agencies and four years as an environmental specialist for industry in environmental law and regulation compliance.

Lee began work for the Forest Service in 1988 as a fisheries biologist at the Powell RD, Clearwater NF. For four years, 1991-1994, she was Intermountain Region's fish and wildlife planning and budget program manager, stationed in Ogden.

She reported to her new post in Missoula in August.



**KRISTINE LEE**

## Tools, Techniques, Principles Training in Public Participation

**P** by Kimberly D. Landl, RO Public & Governmental Relations.

Public lands belong to the citizens of this country. These lands are many things to many publics. But because of finite resources and services and growing demands, National Forests and National Grasslands can not be all things to all people.

Effectively communicating and working with our publics and customers is an important part of the work of the Forest Service. It is basic to our mission of "Caring for the Land and Serving People" to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concepts to meet the diverse public needs.

Our guiding principles require that "We strive to meet the needs of our customers in fair, friendly and open ways." There is growing public interest in being involved and participating in the administration, protection, planning and management of the public lands.

In addressing the need to develop new skills to encourage and facilitate public participation and involvement in the workings of the Forest Service, the Public & Governmental Relations office offers public involvement training in:

- Public Participation Tools & Techniques (P2T2)

### Public Involvement



- Public Participation Principles & Techniques (P3T)

The R-1 Public Involvement Courses [Public Participation Principles & Techniques (P3T) and Public Participation Tools & Techniques (P2T2)] are now being taught by a strong, internal cadre from the Northern Region.

The training cadre has conducted more than 22 courses and trained 550 individuals

**See PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Continued on Page 12**

in P3T. The P2T2 Course has been taught at the International Association of Public Participation Practitioners Conference and in Billings. But already the cadre has taught more than 65 individuals from numerous Federal & State agencies.

The objective of the P2T2 Course is to analyze various public involvement methods and learn the "how-to's" for selecting and using the methods. This course allows participants to assess the "friendliness" of their public participation strategy. P3T is a prerequisite for this course. It includes an in-depth examination of various public participation tools used in the P3T model. The teaching cadre is preparing their instructor materials to get on the road again.

No P3T Courses are scheduled at this time. But, if your Forest is interested in hosting a course, contact, Kimberly Landl of the Public & Governmental Relations Staff in the Regional Office.

For more information about public involvement/participation training, contact Landl at (406) 329-3095 or via DG at K Landl:R01A.

Now is also a good time to thank our present internal training cadre! We continually hear from attendees across the nation and even internationally about the professionalism & dynamic instruction the cadre offers. Please pass your appreciation on to them for all their hard work!

Peri Suenram, Beaverhead National Forest; Mary Lunsford, Custer National Forest; Jody Sutton, Flathead National Forest; Al Koss, Flathead National Forest; Allen Rowley, Flathead National Forest; Dave Turner, Helena National Forest; Amy Teegarden, Helena National Forest; Debbie Wilkins, Idaho Panhandle NFs; Diana Enright, Kootenai National Forest; Mike Liu, Kootenai National Forest; Rob Carlin, Kootenai National Forest; Jennifer Johnsten, Lewis & Clark National Forest; Elayne Murphy, Nez Perce National Forest; Marilyn Krause, Bureau of Land Management, Miles City, MT; Sherry Munther, Ecosystem Assessment & Planning, RO; Kimberly Landl, Public & Governmental Relations, RO; Cheryle Zwang, Public & Governmental Relations, RO.

## Federal Recycling Program



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## INTO THE PAST

Did you identify the "Looking Back" picture in the last (September) NORTHERN REGION NEWS?

It was the Seven Devils Ranger Station, Nez Perce National Forest. K.D. Swan took the picture in 1925

Now look at this month's picture below. Do you know the approximate time of the picture?

Where is it?

